

Message Text

SECRET

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61

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S/S-JMEALUM

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R 152136Z MAY 75 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

S E C R E T STATE 113712

NODIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT CAIRO 4475 ACTION SECSTATE DTD 05 MAY

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S E C R E T CAIRO 4475

NODIS

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR EG US

SUBJECT: SUEZ CANAL OPENING

1. FAHMY TELEPHONED ME A FEW MINUTES AGO (2330)
TO SAY HE HAD TALKED WITH THE PRESIDENT ABOUT THE MATTER
OF FOREIGN WARSHIPS TRANSITTING THE CANAL ON JUNE 5.
EARLIER EGYPTIAN PLAN, AS GIVEN TO US BY MASHOUR, HAD
CALLED FOR ONE EGYPTIAN WARSHIP TO MAKE INAUGURAL
TRANSIT, BUT NO RPT NO FOREIGN WARSHIPS. THE PRESIDENT
HAD REVERSED THIS AND SAID HE WOULD LIKE TWO OR THREE

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"BIG" AMERICAN WARSHIPS TO BE IN THE JUNE 5 INAUGURAL

PROCESSION FROM PORT SAID SOUTHWARD. THE PRESIDENT ATTACHES CONSIDERABLE IMPORTANCE TO THIS. FAHMY SUGGESTED PERHAPS A LIGHT CRUISER AND TWO DESTROYERS. ALSO, WHILE THE INITIAL PLAN HAD BEEN TO KEEP FOREIGN MILITARY REPRESENTATION TO TWO-STAR LEVEL(ADMIRALS MCCAULEY AND CARROLL, OUR CTF CHIEFS), THE PRESIDENT WOULD HAVE NO OBJECTION TO AN AMERICAN THREE-STAR ADMIRAL BEING INCLUDED. FAHMY ASKED THAT I GET THIS WORK TO YOU IMMEDIATELY WITH REQUEST FOR POSITIVE REPLY TOMORROW IF WE CAN SEND TWO OR THREE "BIG" WARSHIPS THROUGH IN THE INAUGURAL PROCESSION.

2. FAHMY SAYS NO RPT NO OTHER FOREIGN WARSHIPS ARE BEING INVITED TO PARTICIPATE. HOWEVER, THE PRESIDENT IS PARTICULARLY DESIROUS IN HAVING AMERICAN WARSHIPS TAKE PART. THE FOREIGN

WARSHIPS NOW IN THE CANAL AREA WHICH ARE COMPLETING THE MINE CLEARING FUNCTION WILL NOT BE IN THE PROCESSION, BUT WILL REMAIN IN THE CANAL AREA AND PRESUMABLY BE DRESSED FOR THE OCCASION.

3. PLEASE ADVISE.
EILTS UNQTE KISSINGER

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